

17) (Twice Amended) A method of forming a metal product having a cutting edge having a wear resistant surface, comprising the steps of: forming a workpiece substrate having a cutting edge portion; performing a high-density coating process to coat at least the cutting edge portion of the workpiece substrate with a wear resistant coating material; and performing a hot isostatic pressing treatment on the coated workpiece substrate to obtain a metal product having a wear resistant surface comprised of the coating material, the wear resistant surface being formed at the cutting edge portion and having a diffusion bonding between the coating material and the workpiece substrate, the diffusion bonding between the coating material and the workpiece substrate being effective for retaining the wear resistant coating material on the cutting edge portion during an edge sharpening process of the cutting edge portion and during use of the cutting edge portion of the formed metal product.

26) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having a cutting edge according to claim 17; wherein the metal product formed comprises one of an ice skate blade, snow ski edge, [kitchen knife,] pen tip and fishing hook.

Kindly add the following new claims 27 – 36:

27) A method of forming a kitchen knife having a cutting edge having a wear resistant surface, comprising the steps of: forming a knife substrate having a cutting edge portion; performing a high-density coating process to coat at least the cutting edge portion of the knife substrate with a wear resistant coating material; and performing a hot isostatic pressing treatment on the coated knife substrate to obtain a kitchen knife having a wear resistant surface comprised of the coating material, the wear resistant surface being formed at the cutting edge portion and having a diffusion bonding between the coating material and the knife substrate, the diffusion bonding between the coating material and the knife substrate being effective for retaining the wear resistant coating material on the cutting edge portion during an edge sharpening process of the cutting edge portion and during use of the cutting edge portion of the formed kitchen knife.

28) A method of forming a kitchen knife having a cutting edge according to claim 27; wherein the step of performing the high-density coating process comprises performing a hyper velocity oxy-fuel thermal spray process.

29) A method of forming a kitchen knife having a cutting edge according to claim 28; wherein the step of hot isostatic pressing treating comprises the step of heating the coated cutting tool substrate to a temperature that is substantially 80% of the melting point of the coating material; and pressurizing the coated cutting tool substrate to a pressure substantially between 20 and 50 percent of the yield strength of the coating material in an inert gas atmosphere.

30) A method of forming a kitchen knife having a cutting edge according to claim 29; further comprising the step of performing a sintering heat treatment on the coated knife substrate to remove entrapped gas in the coating material before performing the hot isostatic pressing treatment so that the formed kitchen knife has a relatively smooth surface texture.

31) A method of forming a kitchen knife having a cutting edge according to claim 27; wherein the coating material comprises a hard and durable metal such as Cobalt, Carbide and TiN.

32) A method of forming a cutting tool having a cutting edge having a wear resistant surface, comprising the steps of: forming a cutting tool substrate having a cutting edge portion; performing a high-density coating process to coat at least the cutting edge

portion of the cutting tool substrate with a wear resistant coating material; and performing a hot isostatic pressing treatment on the coated cutting tool substrate to obtain a cutting tool having a wear resistant surface comprised of the coating material, the wear resistant surface being formed at the cutting edge portion and having a diffusion bonding between the coating material and the cutting tool substrate, the diffusion bonding between the coating material and the cutting tool substrate being effective for retaining the wear resistant coating material on the cutting edge portion during an edge sharpening process of the cutting edge portion and during use of the cutting edge portion of the formed cutting tool.

33) A method of forming a cutting tool having a cutting edge according to claim 32; wherein the step of performing the high-density coating process comprises performing a hyper velocity oxy-fuel thermal spray process.

34) A method of forming a cutting tool having a cutting edge according to claim 33; wherein the step of hot isostatic pressing treating comprises the step of heating the coated cutting tool substrate to a temperature that is substantially 80% of the melting point of the coating material; and pressurizing the coated cutting tool substrate to a pressure substantially between 20 and 50 percent of the yield strength of the coating material in an inert gas atmosphere.

35) A method of forming a cutting tool having a cutting edge according to claim 34; further comprising the step of performing a sintering heat treatment on the coated cutting tool substrate to remove entrapped gas in the coating material before performing the hot isostatic pressing treatment so that the formed cutting tool has a relatively smooth surface texture.

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36) A method of forming a cutting tool having a cutting edge according to claim 32; wherein the coating material comprises a hard and durable metal such as Cobalt, Carbide and TiN.

Concluded

Additional Fees:

No additional fees are believed to be required. However, should it be determined that any additional fees are due, please contact the undersigned attorney for immediate remittance of any such fees.